

XXIX.—*Obituary.*

LORD BRABOURNE.

WE regret to have to record the death of Lord Brabourne, who had of late years interested himself so much in the study of Neotropical birds.

Wyndham Wentworth Knatchbull-Hugessen, third Baron Brabourne, was born September 21, 1885, and was the only son of the second Baron and Amy Virginia, daughter of the first Baron Allendale. His grandfather, the first Lord Brabourne, was a well-known politician in the Victorian era, and was raised to the peerage by Lord Beaconsfield.

Lord Brabourne succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 1909, and entered the Grenadier Guards in the following year, passing into the Special Reserve in 1911. Soon after the outbreak of the war he rejoined his regiment, and met his death at Neuve Chapelle on March 12 last.

During his early life, before his father's death, Lord Brabourne spent some years in Paraguay, where he amassed a considerable collection of birds, which he presented to the British Museum on his return in 1908. In 1910 he was elected a Member of the Union, and in the same year he induced Mr. Chubb to join him in the planning and organization of a general work on the Birds of South America. A "List," which was to form Vol. I. of the Series, was completed and published in December 1912 (see 'Ibis,' 1913, p. 315).

In July 1912 Lord Brabourne again left England for South America, where he remained in Peru collecting material for his great undertaking. On the outbreak of the war in August last, he hurried home to rejoin his regiment.

In addition to the "List" already mentioned, Lord Brabourne was the author, conjointly with Mr. Chubb, of the following papers:—

The Nomenclature of the Rheas of South America. *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8) viii, 1911, pp. 273-275.

A Synopsis of the Genus *Tinamus*. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xii. 1913, pp. 577-579.

A Key to the Species of the Genus *Crypturus*, with Descriptions of some new Forms. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xiv. 1915, pp. 319-322.

We must all deplore the loss of this young and enthusiastic brother-member, and sympathise also with his fellow-worker, Mr. C. Chubb. It is very doubtful, we fear, whether it will be possible for the latter to continue unaided the great work which was planned by him and his young and energetic colleague.

Lord Brabourne was unmarried, and the title passes to his uncle, the Hon. Cecil Marcus Knatchbull-Hugessen.

CECIL MACMILLAN DYER.

C. M. Dyer, M.B.O.U., Second Lieutenant 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade, was killed in Flanders, while on duty in the trenches, on April 8. Mr. Dyer, the second son of the late Louis Dyer, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, and grandson of the late Alexander Macmillan, publisher, was born in Oxford on January 17, 1894. He was educated at Clifton College and at Christ's College, Cambridge, where, at the end of last summer, he had just completed his second year. He had served in the O.T.C. at Clifton and at Cambridge, and when war broke out at once volunteered for the Special Reserve. He obtained early in August a commission in the 6th Battalion Rifle Brigade, and served with his Battalion at Sheerness until the middle of September, when he was transferred to the 4th Battalion, just home from India, and went out to the front with the 27th Division just before Christmas. Though invalided for a time with frozen feet he saw much severe fighting, especially at Neuve Chapelle and St. Eloi, and his senior officers bore warm testimony to his courage and capacity. Mr. Dyer, who was elected a member of the B. O. U. in 1914, had interested himself in the study of birds from his boyhood, and corresponded on the subject with his friend Mr. Warde Fowler. While at Clifton he showed an active interest in ornithology, and when he came up to Cambridge he carried his studies further, and

there is no doubt that he would have made his mark as an observer. Mr. A. H. Evans writes :—" He was one of the two leading spirits in ornithology during the time he was in Cambridge, and did a great deal of work in the neighbourhood, chiefly in estimating the number of each species of bird in the various districts and finding out in which spots they bred. He kept careful lists of the results, and his work was most accurate. . . . He added a good deal to our knowledge of the birds of remote villages to the west of Cambridge."

G. A. M.

RICHARD LYDEKKER.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr. R. Lydekker, F.R.S., which took place at Harpenden, Herts, on April 16 last. Though never a member of the Union, Mr. Lydekker has been a most active worker for over thirty years in the services of zoology and palæontology.

Born in 1849 of Dutch descent, he was educated at Cambridge, where he took the second place in the first class of the Natural Science tripos of 1871. Joining the Geological Survey of India in 1874, he remained eight years in India, exploring Kashmir, and arranging and cataloguing the large series of vertebrate tertiary fossils obtained by the Survey chiefly in the Siwalik beds; these had then been recently transferred to the Indian Museum in Calcutta.

Soon after his return to this country he became a regular worker in the Natural History Museum, with which institution he remained connected for the rest of his life, though he never sought an official appointment.

Mr. Lydekker's work in zoology naturally falls into two categories—his researches in vertebrate palæontology and his more popular books written chiefly for sportsmen and from the sporting point of view; these last are mostly concerned with the larger Mammals. He also co-operated with Sir William Flower in 'An Introduction to the Study of Mammals,' an admirable work, and contributed the volume on vertebrates to the third edition of Nicholson's 'Manual of Palæontology.'

His work in ornithology was almost all palæontological. He prepared a catalogue of the fossil birds in the British Museum in 1891, and another of the birds of the Siwalik beds of India (Mem. Geol. Surv. India) in 1885. To 'The Ibis' (1891, pp. 381-410) he contributed a most useful summary of our knowledge of British fossil birds, and later ('Ibis,' 1892, p. 530) a criticism on some work of de Vis on the fossil birds of Queensland and ('Ibis,' 1893, pp. 40-47) on Ameghino's discoveries of the giant *Phororhacos* of the Argentine. In 1909 he issued his 'Sportsman's British Bird Book.'

Mr. Lydekker was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1894, and was awarded the Lyell Medal by the Geological Society in 1902.

HANS GRAF VON BERLEPSCH.

The news has only recently reached us of the death of Graf von Berlepsch, one of the oldest Honorary Members of our Union, and notwithstanding the present sad state of our relations with Germany we cannot pass it over in silence.

It was with the avifauna of the Neotropical region that von Berlepsch chiefly concerned himself. In his ancestral castle, Schloss Berlepsch, near Cassel, he had amassed a very fine and complete collection of South American birds, rivalling most of those contained in the larger national museums. He also had a very complete collection of Humming-birds, with examples of nearly every species mounted in a most artistic manner.

His contributions to ornithology were nearly all concerned with the systematic study of South American birds, and commenced as long ago as the early seventies. A list of them would fill several pages.

He had been a member of the German Ornithological Society for the last forty-five years, and several times served as President. He was elected a Foreign Member of the B. O. U. in 1875, and an Honorary Member in 1890. He died on February 27 last, when in his 64th year.